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UM NEWS

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IMMEDIATELY

UM-WMC MERGER PLANS DISCUSSED
AT COMMITTEE MEETING AT UNIVERSITY

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MISSOULA--

Members of the Joint Program Planning Committee of the University of Montana in Missoula and Western Montana College in Dillon met Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12-13, on the UM campus to discuss the proposed merger of the two schools.

The committee, made up of four representatives from UM and four from WMC, did not make any final policy statements, but did formulate plans to develop specific suggestions to aid in the consolidation of UM and WMC programs. Presidents Richard C. Bowers of UM and George Bandy of WMC also attended portions of the meeting and participated in the discussions.

Items discussed by the committee included:

--Museum loans to WMC. The possibility of shipping some museum items owned by UM to WMC on a permanent loan basis.

--Law Enforcement Academy. WMC will offer to house the Law Enforcement Academy if it is moved from the campus of Montana State University, Bozeman. UM's interest in jointly sponsoring the academy if it is at WMC will be explored by the committee.

--Two full-time teaching positions will be included in the WMC budget so UM faculty members could teach at the Dillon school in the summer of 1977.

Committee members also discussed setting up three new programs. A range management program involving the UM School of Business Administration and the School of Forestry could be developed after the proposal is explored next year, when another faculty member in forestry is hired who would have time to study the proposal.

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A "Natural Heritage" program, an environmentally-related program that would provide a liberal arts background, could be set up to allow students to receive an associate of arts degree or a bachelor of arts degree from either UM or WMC. Faculty members will be interviewed to determine how much interest there would be in starting such a program.

A "Program for Beginning Freshmen," designed to operate in conjunction with the Natural Heritage program, would offer an associate of arts degree after two years of study. The course would be more structured than traditional programs for freshmen and sophomores and would include academic advising and a study-skills course as part of the program.

The Joint Program Planning Committee will meet in Helena Dec. 12 and will present a progress report on program developments to the Board of Regents at the regents' meeting Dec. 13.

Committee members from UM are Dr. Patricia Douglas, professor of business administration and assistant to the president; Thomas J. Livers, the UM student representative, a senior in journalism; Dr. John G. Photiades, associate professor of economics, and Dr. Howard E. Reinhardt, mathematics professor.

WMC committee members are Dr. Daniel G. Block, professor of biological science; Dr. Frank J. Busch, professor of social science and history; Michael Foster, the WMC student representative and past president of the student body, and Dr. Dale R. Tash, professor of social science and history and academic dean at WMC.

Tash is the chairman of the Joint Program Planning Committee.